

REMARKS

The Election of Species Requirement dated August 19, 2003, has been received and reviewed.

Information Disclosure Statement

Please note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the above-referenced application on October 23, 2001, but that the undersigned attorney has not yet received any indication that the referenced listed in the Information Disclosure Statement have been considered in the above-referenced application. It is respectfully requested that the references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement be considered and made of record in the above-referenced application and that an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 that accompanied the Information Disclosure Statement be returned to the undersigned attorney as evidence of such consideration.

Preliminary Amendment

Also, note that a Preliminary Amendment was filed in the above-referenced application on February 12, 2002. The undersigned attorney has not, however, received any indication that the Preliminary Amendment has been entered into the Office file for the above-referenced application. If, for some reason, the Preliminary Amendment has not yet been entered, the undersigned attorney would be happy to provide a true copy thereof to the Office.

Election of Species Requirement

Claims 1-37 are currently pending in the above-referenced application and are all subject to the election of species requirement.

The species of invention that have been identified by the Office include:

- Species 1: the arrangement shown in FIG. 3A;
- Species 2: the arrangement shown in FIG. 7;
- Species 3: the arrangement, including an o-ring, shown in FIG. 4B; and
- Species 4: the arrangement, including a spring, shown in FIG. 4B.

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Species 1. It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-4, 7-12, 13-18, 23-33, and 37 reads on the invention of Species 1.

It is further submitted, as indicated in the outstanding Office Action, that independent claims 1, 18, and 33 currently recite subject matter which is generic to each of Species 1 through 4. Additionally, dependent claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 15, 25, 26, and 30 recite subject matter which is currently generic to each of Species 1 through 4. Numerous other claims also recite subject matter which is generic to two or more of the identified species of invention.

Upon allowance of a claim which recites subject matter which is generic to Species 2, Species 3, or Species 4, other claims which read on that species will also be allowable.

An early action on the merits of claims 1-4, 7-12, 13-18, 23-33, and 37 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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